

**QUICK TO HEAR,
SLOW TO SPEAK,
SLOW TO WRATH**

How to be Victorious in Marriage

- Deborah Ross

My grandmother taught me to “kill ‘em with kindness” by emphasizing that it would be difficult for someone to be ugly to me if I continued to treat them with respect and dignity. As hard as her lesson was for me to understand as a child, today I can clearly see that her teachings were based on Biblical principles that God would one day reveal to me as truth. These words were engrained deeply within my soul as a child, and no doubt have helped me to withstand some difficult situations in my own marriage.

I think a good starting place for us to learn how to silence arguments and put an end to dysfunction in our homes is in the Book of James. James says that we must be “swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath.” Until we recognize that change begins within us, we will forever struggle to “fix” everyone else, particularly our spouses. We will never achieve complete victory in our marriages until we realize within our hearts that we cannot **change** our spouses! We must learn to control our mouths by praying, “Lord, help me to listen more and talk less, so that You can work in my marriage.”

In addition, James 1:22 says that we should be “doers of the word, and not hearers only.” Now, being a doer of the word does not mean that we make others “do the word.” On the contrary, it means that we make ourselves come into agreement with the word of the Lord even while in adverse circumstances. Marriage is not always easy (especially if one spouse is lost). Even so, as Christians, we are required to do our part by being obedient to all things of God - even those that are not always convenient. If it were easy to be a “doer of the word,” then being a “doer” would not require faith. But, we are people of faith and we need to understand that our faith grows as we exercise it. So, don’t be afraid to exercise your faith when it comes to your marriage.

There is one rebuttal that hurt spouses use quite often: “But you don’t know what he/she did to me,” or “You don’t understand what I have to put up with.” When these seemingly valid comments come across my ministry, I gently lead these broken souls back to God’s word that speaks of self control; controlling our tongues, praying, and trusting Him. Granted, one spouse in the marriage may be like the bull in a china store. Still, that doesn’t justify the other spouse being moved, shaken, or provoked to sin against God. In the midst of a marital storm, we must remember that God is on the throne and He loves our marriage. He is on our side and will fight our battles for us if we will just tame ourselves and lay our marriage on the altar for Him to work a miracle. Malachi 2:16 says, “God hates divorce, so our job as a married Christian is to work toward avoiding divorce... even through the fiercest storm.”

One way the devil tempts God’s children and entices them to sin is by encouraging arguments between spouses. He knows that constant bickering will lead spouses to hate one another. The devil then convinces us that we are justified in hating our spouse. Once we are convinced that we don’t need our spouse anymore (because we just can’t get along), we begin to believe that divorce is okay in our situation. Divorce, or the death of a marriage, is calculated by the devil, and is his goal for every Christian marriage. But the devil doesn’t stop there. Most often, divorce leads to bitterness. Bitterness leads to wrath, and wrath leads to revenge. Now, do anger, bitterness, wrath, and revenge sound like characteristics exhibited by one claiming to be a child of God? (See James 1:3-15)

In conclusion, James 1 says that our religion is vain if we don’t learn to bridle our tongues. Remember, the challenges of our faith (especially in marriage) teach us patience, and the patience produced in us will make us perfect in the end. This means that our



faith will be purified in our trials, making us ready to receive the reward that God has waiting for those who believe Him and act according to His word even throughout adverse circumstances.

Hebrews 11:6, But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

If you haven't already read my personal story, I encourage you to pick up a copy of my book, *Healing a Broken Marriage*, today. I have experienced, firsthand, how God's word will come to pass in seemingly hopeless marriages. Today, my marriage is healed and thriving because the Lord is faithful and His word is true! My book is a step-by-step walk of faith and prayer over the course of twelve years as heartache after heartache pointed toward divorce. Glory to God, the devil didn't win the battle, and now I live to tell others how they, too, can claim victory in their homes. My book teaches practical and spiritual lessons that must be combined to bring results.

The Lord doesn't want any of his children to perish. He wants all his children to come to salvation. As a spouse who professes to know God (I say this because you are reading this article), I exhort you to stand strong and see the salvation of the Lord for your loved one. Believe God against all odds. And, very important, *mix all of your faith with God-centered actions that will create fertile soil for your miracle.*

Take the narrow road, tame your tongue, harness your emotions, exercise your faith, and trust God in all things. He loves you!

Job 6:24 KJV, Teach me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred.

"New Pledge of Allegiance"

Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule
For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If scripture now the class recites,
It violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green,
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene.
The law is specific, the law is precise.
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall
Might offend someone with no faith at all.
In silence alone we must meditate,
God's name is prohibited by the state.

We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.
We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.
It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong,
We're taught that such 'judgments' do not belong.

We can get our condoms and birth controls,
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles.
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,
No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:
Should I be shot; My soul please take!
Amen

-Author Unknown

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